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ON THE LAND.

FARM AND STATION.

THE SCARCITY OF FARM LABOUR.

AN UNRELIABLE SUPPLY.

Now that there is work in the country for large numbers of labourers, and the demand is increasing as harvest approaches, it is apparent that there is no regular supply of farm and station labour which may be depended upon. The cost of shearing, and the openings for men on road works have apparently exhausted the available muscle of the country, and it is pretty certain that many more hands would be put on if good workers could be recruited. In connection with this clause of labour nothing is more deceptive than the number of men apparently out of work. Even in the country districts the situation is not encouraging, and the look on during the busiest seasons is very large. Within the metropolitan area, there are always to be seen numbers of men who might be regarded as labourers out of a job, and the inexperienced employer easily comes to the conclusion that it would be quite a simple matter to obtain as many as he might choose to employ. He finds that men come in from the country, but he quickly learns that they are mostly young people, whom the drawing of a wage is the only seriously important part of the contract. The fact is that it is only in rare periods that thoroughly competent, willing farm and station workers are out of a job. At times the landholders are prevented in the stress of a bad season from finding work for the best hands, but as a rule they experience difficulty in getting the good hands they would willingly employ.

Efforts have been made from time to time to supply the demand by moving the unemployed from the city into the country districts. This is, indeed, the favoured project of city people, and the repeated failures do not deter the newest reformer and balancer of the industrial situation from alighting at the attractive theme in his own creation. Many who practice this operation are of the class which believes that given a certain area of land, and a certain number of country-jumpers, a prosperous farm settlement is bound to be established, provided that the counter-jumpers can be induced to go on the land. Similarly they imagine that with work waiting in the country it is necessary only to draft off large batches of city people, and that the system will be self-sustaining, and will be carried into wage-earners. The latest reports from the State Labour Bureau and the experiences of men in the rabbit industry have again proved that in the mass the so-called city worker is an absolute failure in the country. He is soft, utterly helpless in the most trifling emergency, and both unwilling and unable to withstand the task of the long, hard, and strenuous work which must be encountered. It is true that the duties demanded of the bush worker and the farm and station labourer are simple enough. One could read up the whole of the business, and learn it off by rote in a very brief space of time. The trouble for the new worker who undertakes any of the many jobs which may be allotted to him lies in having to learn by doing the actual work, and the time which must be given to this is often a year. That is to say, it will take a year to learn the most effective cooler was the spinal-type, which allowed plenty of fresh air to aid in cooling down. "As in the case with our managers," explained Mr. Kinsella, "who aim at thorough and complete separation, it is necessary to heat the milk close to 100 deg. This being so, the additional cost of heating from 100 deg. to 65 is as slight as not to be considered in face of the great benefit."

Reference was recently made in both Federal and State Parliaments to the situation of portions of Australia in the production of cotton. A bright, clean sample of cotton grown in the Coolamon district by Mr. Sydney Chant has been submitted, and bears out the statements which have been made in support of cotton-growing. It will be remembered that a small quantity which was sent to England recently was stated by experts to be a long way above average quality.

Leading farmers in America appear to have reduced the nitrogen content to a fairly consistent level. It is now believed that when the manure is applied, the bacteria, and still grows lucerne, cow-peas, and other legumes, hardly any nodules are found on the plants. In such cases it has been found that the bacteria may be introduced, and farmers hold the belief that better results are obtained by applying dry manure, and serve all crops, as, for instance, that which will cause nodules on cow-peas will not have the same effect on lucerne. The practice of manuring with animal manure is being discontinued by the steady migration of intelligent dairy farmers from the South Coast.

The inexperienced city man finds that the handles of the unaccustomed tools make his hands very sore, his back pains because he must assume unusual positions, his joints stiffen and ache because his bed is hard, and he is universally weary because he is compelled to rise early and sleep late. The difficulties in the long hours might be endured for the sake of a fair wage, but the work thrown in is too much. These are some of the reasons why the country can never hope to fall back upon the city for useful labour in a busy season. The picture may convey the impression that the conditions of life and labour are severe. Undoubtedly the wage demanded depends upon the endurance of all engaged, but to the man accustomed to the work and the usual way of living represents a healthful if somewhat hard existence. The principal advantage which the good country labourer holds is that it is always possible for him to hold on a proportion of his time to the work, but not the largest part of that is best for the worker, but which is earned under conditions which allow him to live cheaply and save some money. Many a well-to-do farmer in Australia secured his first piece of land with a money earned while working in the bush.

It being always possible for the country labourer to become a farmer, a supply of reliable labour for the State, it enables present problems to work their lands to advantage, and ensures the training of numbers of men who may be added to the permanent yeomanry on the soil. This brings us to the question of training of youth in the labour of farm and station. It has frequently been pointed out in this column that the only way in which the surplus labour can be successfully worked into a human supply for the country is by taking the lads in hand before they have formed habits and developed soft, weak frames which unfit them for the avocation. Unless the boys are reared to farm work so that they become useful in that sphere and unfit for city conditions the attractions of the city cannot be overcome. Cigar-growing and the highest breeds of cattle-farming and stock-breeding are not necessarily productive. The "Combines" has offered a minimum price for this year only for cigar leaf of 6d per lb, but two growers last year— one in the north, and the other in the south of the State—raised tobacco for which they had no trouble in securing a market in the United States. Mr. Willmott thinks that 7d per acre will give a good margin of profit, and he is very confident of success. The market for a wrapper leaf in particular, is very large.

FECUNDITY.

A matter of very great importance to breeders of stock, and one that to a great extent is apt to be overlooked, is the practice of otherwise of their flocks and herds. It is a saying among sheepmen that either you can produce more than there is in the market, or you can't. The suggestion was made that the South Coast district had been almost entirely overlooked. This is, of course, a very rough-and-ready statement, a sort of rule-of-thumb, but it is the basis on which very many work, consciously or unconsciously. The woolly sheep has always been a subject receiving great attention, and the result is that they are becoming more and more neglected. Frequently has been almost entirely overlooked.

Years ago, before the dairy industry rooted itself so successfully in the Riverina, the large baconer in Ireland reported a recent statement that the bacon of a pig, 100lb in weight, cost 10s per acre. On expiry of a lease of 100 acres, he had for 10 years to run to account for 10s per acre, and he could only sell out his right for £400.

Something of a useful character has been accomplished in Queensland by the production of new varieties of economic plants.

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1906.

on the one all-absorbing question that they have been almost unable to see any other. It is time they did so.

Of late that is, within the last immediate year or so—some little awakening has taken place, and the men who were training the flocks to lose our meat, are now training for the sake of the wool. The rising price of meat has drawn attention to it, and breeders have begun to ask themselves if it is all cropping up. Given good seasons, fat is pinned to the well-known and thoroughly tried-out rye for the last six or seven years, shows a tendency to develop rust rapidly, but it is hoped that in the course of time rye will be superseded, and in some ways, for the sake of the wool. The rising price of meat has drawn attention to it, and breeders have begun to ask themselves if it is all cropping up. Given good seasons, fat is pinned to the well-known and thoroughly tried-out rye for the last six or seven years, shows a tendency to develop rust rapidly, but it is hoped that in the course of time rye will be superseded, and in some ways, for the sake of the wool. 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ANGLO-RUSSIAN ENTENTE.

NO INTERFERENCE IN TIBET.

SPHERES OF INFLUENCE IN PERSIA.

ANTI-NATIONALISM.

WEAKNESS TO GREAT BRITAIN.

SPEECH BY LORD MILNER.

LONDON, Sept. 29. The "Daily Telegraph" reports that King Edward and the Czar are about to sign an agreement of non-intervention in the internal affairs of Tibet. The Dalai Lama's powers in future are to be spiritual only, and he will receive no more protection from Russia.

It is probable, the "Daily Telegraph" adds, that Russia's sphere of influence in Persia will be confined to the north of the Tigran plateau, and that Great Britain's sphere will be confined to the south.

The "Daily Telegraph" hints that Russian warships will no longer be excluded from passage through the Dardanelles.

"For many months after his flight from Lhasa, the Dalai Lama was lodged at Urga, the sacred city of the Mongols, in Northern Mongolia. Five months ago the Emperor of Russia, wishing to recruit men from which Russia's sphere of influence had received from their spiritual father, sent the Dalai Lama to the following telegram: 'A large party of my subjects have left Lhasa. Buddhist faith is in great danger and must be saved from the Cuban flag has not been lowered. Mr. Milner, in thanking the deputation for the address, declared that the danger which in Africa impeded the great aim of a gradual fusion of whites into one nation as a permanent member of the Empire was dissipated over minor local and personal questions.

A greater danger in the motherland, he said, was the spirit of anti-nationalism. "Any power in the country's interests were anywhere at stake felt impelled by conscience to side against her. Only Natal's great skill and promptitude in suppressing the recent rebellion saved us from a pro-Zulu uprising. It was the same spirit which, fearing that Great Britain's power would be unfriendly used, strove to keep the country weak, exposing the Empire to the rapacity of the world."

Anti-nationalism, Lord Milner said, was a great and growing factor, but once the danger was realised there would be a tremendous rally of her colonies to the motherland. The British people would not let their inheritance be thrown away by anti-national fanaticism.

SWEEP AWAY IN CRISIS.

ITS ENORMOUS COST.

LONDON, Sept. 28. The International Tourist Trophy race, arranged by the Automobile Club, has been won by Rolls, who drove a 20-horse-power Rolls-Royce car. The race was held on the Isle of Man over a course of 161 miles, and 20 cars competed. Rolls finished in 4 hours 6 minutes.

The "Daily Telegraph" expects a tremendous rally of the people when national anti-nationalism has been pushed too far. Meanwhile the mischief done will only be eradicated at enormous cost.

SOCIALIST DREAMS.

CITIZEN ARMY IMPERATIVE.

DEFENCE AGAINST FOREIGN AGGRESSION.

LONDON, Sept. 28. Mr. D. J. Shackson, M.P. (Labour) upbraids Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P. (Labour), for indulging in socialist dreams.

The "Clarion," an organ of the Socialists, upbraids Mr. Keir Hardie for his anti-militarism, and favours the establishment of a citizen army.

Sept. 29. A hurricane at Mobile, Alabama, has done great damage. Shipping was wrecked and wharfs were blown down.

Christ Church Cathedral was wrecked, and several blocks of the city were flooded.

Eighty people perished. The damage is estimated at 3,000,000 dol. (400,000,000).

Several towns in the vicinity of Mobile were destroyed.

Mobile, situated at the mouth of the Mobile River and at the head of Mobile Bay, an inlet of the Gulf of Mexico, is regularly exposed to a high wind plain that rises gradually from the river, and is backed by suburban hills. From 1860 to 1723 Mobile was the capital of the Lower South, and in 1860 had a population of 120,000.

Many buildings were uprooted at Pensacola, Florida, and steamers were stranded far up in the city streets. Here the losses amounted to 2,000,000 dol. (400,000,000).

The "Clarion" warmly applauds Mr. Keir Hardie for nailing the Socialists to the mast, it denounces his attacks on Mr. Haldane's scheme of universal military training. The "Clarion" also shows that a strong citizen army able to shoot is the only defence "against ambitious and tyrannous Caesars and Kaisers."

The "Times" commands Australian Labour leaders for their patriotic views in a similar direction of defence.

Keir Hardie insists that Labour must stand up to the scheme. Mr. B. H. Haldane, Secretary for War, to induce the youth of the nation to become volunteers, Mr. Keir Hardie has proposed an instead form of conscription.

The "Clarion" is one of the chief lumber ports of the United States, pitch pines forming more than six-tenths of the total value of the exports.

TRANSAAL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

ANOTHER RISING FEARED.

LONDON, Sept. 29. The Transvaal correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" reports that there are apprehensions of a serious rising in the Transvaal, unless the suzerainty of Sotho, cousin of Cetewayo, is handled with the utmost tact.

Sotho's infant son has been appointed under a regent, but sixteen headmen support M'Nestell, who is a rival to the infant, persist in inclemencies to disconcert. M'Nestell will bring a lawsuit to secure a share of his father's possessions, and he appeals to Lord Elgin, Secretary of State for the Colonies, on the ground that he has been harshly and unjustly treated.

THE MUNICH MINT ROBBED.

LONDON, Sept. 29. The Royal Mint at Munich was broken into, and a sum of £4000 in gold. The burglars made their way along the dry bed of a river in the immediate vicinity of the mint, and gained access by tunnelling. A mint employee and a mechanician in an army clothing factory have been arrested. Portion of the money was recovered at the residence of the mechanician's sweetheart, and the remainder was found buried in a park.

FLOODS IN SPAIN.

LONDON, Sept. 28. One hundred residents of the San Pedro and Murcia districts have lost their lives by drowning in the flood waters following upon dreadful storms in South-eastern Spain.

GENERAL CABLE NEWS.

SEARCH FOR DIAMONDS.

LONDON, Sept. 28. A mysterious woman at Peterhof, a residence of the Czar, has been arrested, and conveyed to the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul, St. Petersburg.

MUTINEERS PUNISHED.

One hundred and thirty seven soldiers who took part in a mutiny at Russianash, the capital of the Russian Transcaspian territory, have been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

DYNAMITE OUTRAGE IN NEW YORK.

LONDON, Sept. 28. The Newmarket Chamber of Commerce has requested Mr. Kinnaird to have his best influence with the Federal Government to prevent the British Preference Bill until next session, and, if unsuccessful in that, to endeavour to have the "white ocean" clause deleted.

SUPPOSED UNCHARTED ROCK.

LONDON, Sept. 28. At the wool sales to-day the market continued firm. Quotations were unchanged.

Sept. 29. At the wool sales yesterday the following prices were realised for the clip mentioned:—Yule, 84d; Doondi, 9d; Annandale, 12d; Kurong, 12d; Lanony, 14d; Mount White, 20d; Seswana, 22d; Cleva, 22d.

Sept. 30. Keen competition prevailed at the wool sales yesterday, with an upward tendency. Prices realised were:—Laon, 9d; Clayton, 11d; Kyuna, 22d; Mount Margaret, 24d.

To the present there have been catalogued 54,706 bales, and there have been sold 47,311.

The Newmarket St. Leger Stakes closed at £1000, and the Plate Co., Ltd., Capital £100,000, 7d Castles-street, 7d, Bustock Bennett, general manager.—Adv.

If you want to BORROW MONEY, go to N.W. Newmarket Co., Ltd., Capital £100,000, 7d Castles-street, 7d, Bustock Bennett, general manager.—Adv.

NEWMARKET ST. LÉGER.

WON BY HIS MAJESTY'S CHEVEREL.

LONDON, Sept. 29. The Newmarket meeting yesterday, the Newmarket St. Leger Stakes of 559 sars., 12 miles, was won by His Majesty's Cheverel, by Persimmon—Cheverel, and has, heretofore, won a race during the current season.

The Newmarket St. Leger Stakes closed at £1000, but, with the exception of Black Arrow, Dingwall, and Bill of the Play, the other entries did not include any noted performers. The horses, by Duted Sister, Cheverel, and Persimmon, were a year-old, and had, heretofore, won a race during the current season.

The most refreshing of stimulants is Wolfe's Schnapps, and it is the best known corrective of the system. Take one small glass morning and night.—Adv.

AMERICA INTERVENES.

MR. TAFT GOVERNOR OF CUBA.

TO RESTORE PEACE.

LONDON, Sept. 30. Mr. W. H. Taft, United States Secretary of War, has issued a proclamation declaring himself Governor of Cuba, and that an American Provisional Government has assumed possession for the purpose of restoring peace and public confidence until permanent government is established.

The Cuban flag has not been lowered. Mr. Taft has been instructed to Washington to send 12,000 troops as arranged.

MR. BRYAN'S DECLARATION.

INTERVENTION NOT WARRANTED.

Mr. W. J. Bryan, Democratic candidate for the Presidency of the United States, declares that the existence of a state of civil war in Cuba does not warrant American intervention.

"We are on the eve of one of the greatest political crises in the history of Australia," Mr. Bruce Smith told his audience. He reminded them that the struggle was great, because of the far-reaching consequences that would result from the issue. We had had elections before, but on questions of minor importance. This question relates to the very root of our civilization. The struggle was to determine whether or not the great majority of the people were to be completely subverted in order to satisfy the wants of a minority. It was a question of beginning a long series of socialistic and communistic measures, which would have affected every branch of our civilization and social conditions. Socialism stood for the abolition of private property, the abolition of land, and the transfer of all affairs of state to the control of the masses which would be not short of that of a man in a public institution or of a man in a public office.

Mr. McLean declared that a continuation of the present state of affairs was intolerable. The Labour Party had now turned what might have been a substantial surplus, and it would be expended on the part of the State.

Mr. Cook occupied the chair.

THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

THE GREAT ISSUE.

Some notable speeches were made on Thursday evening in Melbourne at the annual demonstration of the Women's National League, a body which numbers 12,000 members, and has branches in every electoral district in the State. The speakers on the same platform as Mr. Bruce Smith, Mr. Allan McLean, and Mr. McCay was full of significance, showing as it did how fully they realised that the issue to be fought at this election is purely that of socialism versus anti-socialism.

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PARRAMATTA.

WINDSOR, Saturday.

Mr. Joseph Cook is regarded as a certa

who said that the prospects of a Labour candidate were excellent. In discussion it was agreed that the Kirkstall branch had violated the pledge in the constitution, which bound every member to take all necessary means to secure his return.

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